

## Fall back

Did you  
set your  
clocks  
back 1  
hour and  
change  
the bat-  
teries in your  
smoke  
alarm?



## Irish victory

Notre Dame routs  
Navy 58-27 - 1E



## Final exit

Vincent Price was  
king of thrillers - 1C

HIGH  
MID  
60s

LOW  
MID  
30s

Rain  
Complete forecast  
Page 2A

# COURIER-POST

SOUTH JERSEY'S NEWSPAPER

SINCE 1875

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1993

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## Final push in race for governor



On patrol: Volunteers walk the streets of North Camden Saturday night.

## Rainy patrol saves Camden from mischief

By KEVIN RIORDAN  
Courier-Post Staff

CAMDEN — The skies poured but spirits soared as the city's second annual all-out effort to curb arson and violence on Mischief Night appeared successful Saturday.

Although a soaking rain reduced the number of volunteers — officials expected 2,000, and estimated that 1,500 reported for patrol duty — the 340-member Camden Police Department was fully mobilized and augmented by upwards of 100 officers from the Camden County Sheriff's Department and Prosecutor's Office.

Only a single, quickly extinguished fire in a vacant rowhouse had been reported as of press time.

"The rain has not dampened the spirit of the persons out there on patrol," Veronica Wynn, co-chairwoman of the Camden Anti-Arson Task Force, said at a press conference at the Camden Police Administration Building.

"I'm extremely pleased," city Police Chief Bob Pugh said. "Mischief Night was a negative, but we've turned it into a tremendous positive."

The task force was established last year after Mischief Night 1991 turned into a nightmare, with a record 133 fire calls reported. The 1992 campaign cut the number of fire calls to 26 and sparked an awakening of civic pride in the long-struggling city.

"What's so heartening is there are actually new volunteers coming out tonight in the rain," noted Camden County Prosecutor Edward F. Borden Jr. That indeed seemed to be the case as Mischief Night 1993 got under way.

Please see MISCHIEF, Page 5A

### Keeping it fun and safe

● The city sponsors 17 Halloween parties for kids Page 4A.  
● North Camden arson patrolers are a spirited bunch. Page 4A.

## The problem with Party labels

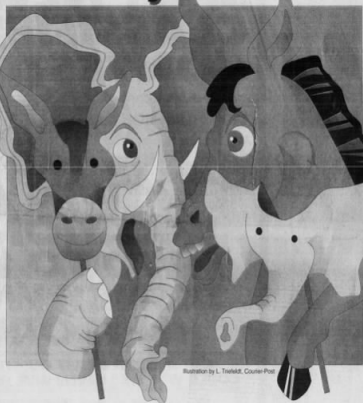


Illustration by T. Lusk, Courier-Post

## Issue politics takes over — for better and worse

By LEE MOORE  
Courier-Post Staff

For or thousands of confused, conflicted or otherwise undecided voters, Tuesday's election could boil down to a last-second pick based on one question: Who's the Democrat and who's the Republican? It's a choice that, over the years, loyalists in both camps

have painted as puppy-dog simple: liberal vs. conservative. The working class vs. big business. Alternative lifestyles vs. "family values."

Vote Republican, some hard-line Democrats charge, and elect the country club set, the rich Rotarians eager to plunder the environment between golf outings with

corporate fat cats.

Vote Democrat, Republicans counter, and elect the bleeding-heart set, the liberals eager to plunder private wealth to save a tree frog or launch one more bloated social program.

But in 1993, there's evidence that the boundary lines are blurring.

Please see PARTIES, Page 15A

## Polls differ on who is in the lead

■ Hard to call:  
Despite the last-minute flurry of polls and TV ads, New Jersey voters are unpredictable.

By RITA MANNO  
Courier-Post Staff

Like race horses calling up the last bit of energy in a surge toward the finish line, Gov. Jim Florio and Christine Todd Whitman are campaigning at a frenetic pace, showing up at rallies, dinners, schools, breakfasts and private homes.

In 48 hours it will all be over, the end of roller-coaster campaigns that began with a wildly unpopular Democratic governor who has steadily worked himself out of the collar of public opinion polls and a woman who became the Republican hope after nearly toppling Democratic state Sen. Bill Bradley in 1990.

Driving the campaign toward election day are the public opinion polls, the television ads and the notion that New Jersey voters are unpredictable. These polls — including one showing the candidates at a dead heat, another with Florio up by 10 points — are producing conflicting results.

It was unthinkable a year ago that Florio could even be competitive. Once called a political cadaver for his arrogance in pushing through the state's highest tax increase, Florio has confounded critics with his emergence as the street fighter of old. Embracing an assault weapons ban and backing welfare reform laws, Florio has managed to package himself as the candidate of change, a savvy political feat for an incumbent.

Meanwhile, Whitman has tried to focus her campaign on Florio's culpability in contributing to lost jobs and an ailing economy.

Along the way, though, Whitman — who came into the race largely unknown but facing a public willing to be convinced — has tripped and stumbled, underestimating her opponent and

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### On the campaign front

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● Whitman gaining, Page 11A  
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## Halloween is creeping up in popularity

By CAROL COMEGNO  
Courier-Post Staff

A likable band, battery-operated, creeps along the floor. A ghostly device connected to a deejay shrieks when someone steps on the mat.

Then there are the new Halloween flags with symbols of jack-o'-lanterns and witches, the haunted hayrides and the increasing numbers of elaborately decorated porches and lawns. These are some of the new items and trends for Halloween, which is fast becoming a more important holiday — second only to Christmas — each year for families and retailers.

Market research by Hallmark Cards Inc. shows \$450 million

The bride wore black  
● ... and the groom was Frankenstein in this Magnolia wedding. Page 1B.

was spent in 1992 on Halloween decorations, party accessories, candy, costumes and other merchandise. Other estimates by retailers put the figure at \$1 billion.

Hallmark card sales alone jumped 25 percent from 28 million in 1991 to 35 million in 1992. "Halloween decorating is now second only to Christmas," said Rosette Pagan, a spokeswoman for Hallmark. "We think it is because it is just pure fun and escapism and more adults are



Up and at 'em: Passers-by get a special greeting on Evesham Road in Magnolia. Halloween is now a growth industry.

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662-3636

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To vote FLORIO  
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To vote WHITMAN  
dial code 4444

Register your opinion by calling the Courier-Post at 662-3636 today. Watch for results in Monday's Courier-Post.